

**MAGISTRATE JUDGES
OF
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR
THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

The position of United States Magistrate Judge is relatively new in the federal judicial system. For many years the federal system had United States Commissioners who handled a variety of preliminary criminal matters, such as initial appearances, bonds, search warrants and arrest warrants. In 1971 the name "Commissioner" was changed to "Magistrate," however, the range of duties performed was not greatly altered. The name was changed again in 1990 to "United States Magistrate Judge."

In 1976 the magistrate system was revamped and the position of magistrate was redrawn into the form we see today. The duties which could be performed by magistrates was greatly broadened to include a number of civil functions as well as a broader range of criminal proceedings. Today a magistrate judge may conduct virtually all type of civil proceedings, although some, such as trials, require consent of the parties. In criminal matters, a magistrate judge can perform all preindictment functions and a great number of post indictment matters. A magistrate judge cannot conduct criminal felony

trials.

In 1971 when the office of United States Magistrate was created, a number of individuals who has previously served as "Commissioners" were appointed to the position of "Magistrate."

These included:

R. W. Farrar, Jr who served as a part-time magistrate judge in Lake Charles until 1978;

Jack L. Simms, Jr. who served as a part-time magistrate judge in Leesville until 1980;

John W. Wilson who served as a part-time magistrate judge in Monroe until retiring in 1996; and

James M. Barton who served in Shreveport as a part-time magistrate judge from 1971 to 1974 and as a full-time magistrate judge from 1974 until his retirement in 1987.

Also appointed in 1971 were the following who had not served previously as commissioners:

Michael M. Wahlder who served as a part-time magistrate judge in Alexandria until 1987; and

Charles J. Boudreaux who served as a part time magistrate in Lafayette until 1975.

As the years passed, a number of other individuals served as magistrate judges in this district. Those who served in the past as magistrate judges are as follows:

Alexandria

John F. Simon who served as a full-time magistrate judge from 1987 until his retirement in 1997;

Lafayette

Byron J. Hebert who served as a part-time magistrate judge from 1975 through 1980;

Will L. Goode who served as a full-time magistrate judge from 1980 through 1983;

Kathleen M. Overcash who served as a part-time magistrate judge from January of 1988 through July of 1988;

Pamela A. Tynes who served as a part-time magistrate judge from 1988 through 1991, and as full-time magistrate judge from 1991 through 2001;

Lake Charles

_____ Joseph J. Tritico who served as a part-time magistrate judge from 1978 through 1986;

James T. Trimble, Jr. who served as a full-time magistrate judge from 1986 until he was elevated to the position of District Judge in 1991.

Alonzo P. Wilson was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 1991 and served until 2007;

Shreveport

Roy S. Payne who was served as full-time magistrate judge from 1987 through 2005;

At the present time there are six (6) full-time magistrate judges and one (1) part-time magistrate judges in the district. By division, the following magistrate judge are presently serving in the district:

Alexandria

James D. Kirk who was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 1997;

Lafayette

Mildred E. Methvin who was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 1983;

C. Michael Hill, who was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 2001;

Lake Charles

Kathleen Kay, who was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 2007.

Monroe

Karen Hayes who was appointed part-time magistrate judge in 1997, and was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 2005;

Shreveport

Mark L. Hornsby who was appointed full-time magistrate judge in 2005; and

Robert H. Shemwell who was appointed part-time magistrate judge in 1984, and also serves as clerk of court.